



PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No: 16497.1.1.3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael T. Carley, et al.)
Serial No: 10/617,090) Art Unit
Confirmation No.: 1941) 3731
Filed: July 9, 2003)
For: CLOSURE DEVICE AND METHODS FOR)
MAKING AND USING THEM)
Examiner: Daniel J. Davis)

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Dear Sir:

Applicants agree with the Examiner that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited references, but respectfully disagree with the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the communication mailed on October 5, 2005. Applicants submit that it is the claim as a whole, rather than any particular limitation, that makes each of the claims in the above-identified application allowable. No single limitation should be construed as the reason for allowance of a claim because it is each of the elements of the claim that makes it allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 5, 2005

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